

Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 22 November 1990

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IAN CASTLES
Australian Statistician

Earnings growth continues

Preliminary estimates show an increase in average weekly ordinary time earnings of 1.4 per cent for full-time adults in the three months to August 1990. Average weekly ordinary time earnings in August were \$541.70, up from \$534.10 in May.

The increase for males was 1.5 per cent (to \$575.00) while for females it was 1.2 per cent (to \$475.80).

The rise in earnings is due to a continuing flowthrough of increases handed down in the National Wage Case decision of August 1989. Indicative information suggests that about 54 per cent of full-time adult employees have received the second instalment of this increase. The second instalment allowed for an increase of \$15.00 (or 3%, whichever is greater) for skilled workers, \$12.50 for semi-skilled workers and \$10.00 for unskilled workers.

AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS
AUGUST 1990
Full-time adult ordinary time earnings

	Weekly earnings (\$)			Percentage change in 'Persons' from	
	Males	Females	Persons	May 1990	August 1989
Private sector	565.30	443.80	526.80	1.4	6.2
Public sector	594.80	527.20	569.70	1.3	7.1
All sectors	575.10	475.80	541.70	1.4	6.5

Average weekly *total* earnings (includes overtime) for full-time adults increased by 1.3 per cent to \$576.50, an annual increase of 6.1 per cent compared with August 1989.

For further information, order the publication *Average Weekly Earnings, Australia*, Preliminary (6301.0), or contact Mark Patton on (06) 252 5946.

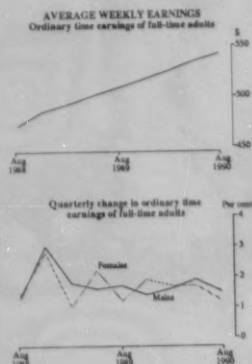
Lowest monthly road fatalities on record

October 1990 recorded the lowest national road fatality figure for any month since the series began in 1970. The 162 deaths recorded on Australian roads represent a drop of 30 per cent over the previous month's figure (233).

The record low October figure reinforces a sustained improvement in Australia's road safety performance during the 1990 calendar year.

In the ten months to October this year there were 355 fewer road deaths (16 per cent) than in the same period last year, and the 1990 cumulative figure is also the lowest since the series began.

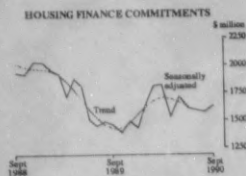
Continued ...



Significant decreases were recorded in most States and Territories for the ten months to October, the most significant being in Victoria, where 461 people were killed in road accidents, down 31 per cent from 667 deaths recorded in the same period last year. Small increases were recorded in Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory.

For further information, order the publication *Road Traffic Accidents Involving Fatalities, Australia (9401.0)* or contact Choon Looi on (06) 252 5458.

Improved housing finance figures



After declining for three successive months, seasonally adjusted housing finance figures showed a small increase in September 1990.

Seasonally adjusted, total commitments for September 1990 were \$1,628.2 million, up \$51.0 million (3.2%) on August 1990 and up \$168.7 million (11.6%) on September 1989.

Finance for the purchase of established dwellings, the major component of the housing finance market, was down \$16.4 million (1.4%).

On the other hand finance for the construction of dwellings was up \$45.5 million (15.9%) and finance for the purchase of newly erected dwellings was up \$22.0 million (20.8%).

Banks accounted for most of the increase, up \$38.0 million (3.2%). 'Other' lenders also increased, up \$16.8 million (8.3%), while permanent building societies were down \$3.7 million (1.9%).

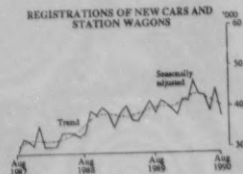
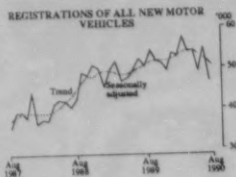
Note that the big rise over September 1989, shown for the major lenders in the table below, comes off a very low base (see graph).

HOUSING FINANCE COMMITMENTS
SEPTEMBER 1990
Seasonally adjusted

Type of lender	\$ million	Percentage change from	
		Previous month	Corresponding month of previous year
All banks	1,224.5	3.2	16.9
Permanent building societies	186.1	-1.9	11.7
Other lenders	217.7	8.3	-11.3
Total	1,628.2	3.2	11.6

For further information, order the publication *Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia (5609.0)*, or contact Derek Pike on (06) 252 7129.

New car market still coming off its peak



The trend estimate of new car and station wagon registrations continued its four month decline in August 1990. This was confirmed by final figures for August released last week.

The trend estimate for August shows 40,229 new car and station wagon registrations, down 697 on July and down by nearly 3,000 on the peak reached in April 1990.

Even with the recent downward trend, registrations are far higher (more than 10,000 per month higher) than in the trough reached in early 1987.

In seasonally adjusted terms, car and station wagon registrations fell by 15.2 per cent between July and August, following a sharp rise in July and an almost equally sharp fall in June (see graph).

These volatile movements, even in the seasonally adjusted series, are typical of the motor vehicle registration data, and the Australian Bureau of Statistics recommends greater reliance on the trend estimates, which are a smoothed series based on the seasonally adjusted numbers.

Preliminary estimates of registrations for October 1990 are expected to be released next week.

For further information, order the publication *Motor Vehicle Registrations, Australia* (9303.0), or contact Kevin Yeadon on (06) 252 6255.

Agstats on floppy disk

AGSTATS is a microcomputer-based package containing the Australian Bureau of Statistics' set of Agricultural Census small area commodity data and a program to interrogate this data. Over 1,300 individual Statistical Local Areas, covering all of Australia, can be cross referenced with any or all of over 800 commodity data items. Complete regional profiles of agricultural activity and production can be obtained for any individual area or aggregates up to State or Australia level. AGSTATS contains data on a wide range of agricultural activities such as grazing of cattle and sheep, dairying, pigs and poultry, crops and pastures, fruit and vegetables and fertiliser use.

Data for 1987-88 and 1988-89 are currently available and that for earlier years will become available progressively. Future years data is expected to be available on AGSTATS in April, twelve months after each Agricultural Census.

The data is also available on microfiche and magnetic tape.

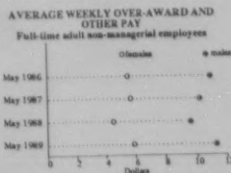
For further information, order the publication *Information Paper: AGSTATS, Australia* (7107.0), or contact Henry Stefanik on (06) 252 5341, or for technical enquiries contact Helen Mackerras on (06) 252 5357.

Full earnings profile released

The latest comprehensive results from the annual Survey of Employee Earnings and Hours show that in the twelve months to May 1989 there was a marked increase in the level of over-award payments.

The graph at left reflects the fact that over-award payments for full-time adult non-managerial employees rose between 1988 and 1989 by 18 per cent for males and by 31 per cent for females. This rise brought these payments back to the levels applying in 1986.

The table below shows that adult males in major occupation groups averaged higher earnings than adult females. Occupation skill levels generally are reflected in earnings levels.



AVERAGE WEEKLY TOTAL EARNINGS, MAY 1989
Full-time adult employees
Dollars

Occupation	Males	Females	Persons
Managers and administrators	759	574	726
Professionals	707	583	656
Para-professionals	633	552	607
Tradespersons	530	381	521
Clerks	523	428	462
Salespersons and personal service workers	511	402	462
Plant and machine operators, and drivers	562	355	532
Labourers and related workers	465	373	441
All occupations	578	457	538

For further information, order the publication *Distribution and Composition of Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia* (6306.0), or contact Regina Camara on (06) 252 5325.

This week in brief ...

Extracts from this week's releases.

Private mineral exploration

Mineral exploration expenditure for 1989-90 fell from \$697.4 million in 1988-89 to \$599.5 million (down 14.1%), and metres drilled fell by 6.1 per cent. Petroleum exploration expenditure in 1989-90 fell by \$47.0 million (7.4%) from the 1988-89 level of \$639.3 million.

Source: *Actual and Expected Private Mineral Exploration, Australia, June Qtr 1990* (8412.0).

Wine

In seasonally adjusted terms, total wine sales in September 1990 were 27.1 million litres, representing an increase of 4.5 per cent on August 1990. Total beverage wine produced in Australia decreased by 12.2 per cent from 436 million litres in 1988-89 to 382 million litres in 1989-90. Total beverage wine stocks at 30 June 1990 were 599 million litres, which is a 9.3 per cent increase on stocks at 30 June 1989.

Source: *Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, September 1990* (8504.0) and *Wine Production, Australia and States, 1989-90* (8366.0).

SHIPPING AND AIR CARGO
March Quarter 1990
\$ million

Transport mode	Overseas cargo	
	Inward	Outward
Sea	8,720	9,989
Air	2,790	2,018
Total	11,510	12,008

Source: *Shipping and Air Cargo Commodity Statistics, Australia, March Quarter 1990* (9206.0).

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
- ☐ electronically.

To order any of the publications that appear in *Statistics Weekly* or to inquire about the statistics and services available from the ABS, contact Information Services at any of the offices listed below. An Information Consultancy Service in each office provides assistance of a more extensive or complex nature.

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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Peter Damcevski
Editor
Statistics Weekly
(06) 252 6101

All the week's releases: 14 to 20 November

General

- Australian Standard Commodity Classification, (Revised)
— Transportable Goods, 1990 (1254.0; \$85.00) — *new issue*
- Australian Standard Commodity Classification, (Revised)
— Transportable Goods, 1990, on floppy disk, (1255.0; \$300.00)
— *new issue*
- Statistics Weekly, 15 November 1990 (1318.0; \$3.50)
- Economic Indicators, Qld, November 1990 (1307.3; \$5.00)
- Territory Business Indicators, NT, November 1990 (1307.7; \$3.00)

Social statistics

- Correctional Services, Tas., 1989-90 (4503.6; \$8.00)

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

- Public Sector Superannuation Funds and Schemes, Aust., 1986-87 and 1987-88 (5511.0; \$5.50)
- Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Aust., September 1990 (5609.0; \$8.00)
- Lease Finance, Aust., September 1990 (5644.0; \$5.00)

Labour statistics and prices

- Employed Wage and Salary Earners, Aust., June Qtr 1990 (6248.0; \$12.50)
- Average Weekly Earnings, Aust., August 1990, Preliminary (6301.0; \$3.50)
- Distribution and Composition of Employee Earnings and Hours, Aust., May 1989 (6306.0; \$15.00)
- Award Rates of Pay Indexes, Aust., September 1990 (6312.0; \$8.50)
- Price Indexes of Copper Materials, Aust., October 1990 (6410.0; \$3.50)
- Employment Injuries, Tas., 1988-89 (6301.6; \$8.50)

Agriculture

- Livestock and Livestock Products, Vic., 1989-90 (7221.2; \$19.00)
- Livestock and Livestock Products, WA, March 1990 (7221.5; \$12.50)

Secondary industry and distribution

- Wine Production, Aust. and States, 1989-90 (8366.0; \$4.50)
- Actual and Expected Private Mineral Exploration, Aust., June Qtr 1990 (8412.0; \$5.00)
- Production Statistics, NSW, August 1990 (8304.1; \$5.00)
- Tourist Accommodation, NSW, June Qtr 1990 (8635.1; \$8.60)
- Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, NSW, July 1990 (8741.1; \$8.10)
- Building Approvals — Private Sector, Perth Statistical Division, October 1990 (8732.5; \$5.00)

Transport

- Shipping and Air Cargo Commodity Statistics, Aust., March Qtr 1990 (9206.0; \$12.50)
- Motor Vehicle Registrations, Aust., August 1990 (9303.0; \$9.00)
- Road Traffic Accidents Involving Fatalities, Aust., October 1990 (9401.0; \$4.00)

Calendar of key releases

Expected releases over the fortnight to 4 December 1990

Publication subscription renewals

Subscription renewal invoices for the 1991 year have recently been sent to all subscribers to ABS printed publications.

These invoices need to be completed and returned as soon as possible so that you continue to receive your publication subscriptions without interruption. Subscription inquiries may be made toll-free to (008) 020608.

November

- 22** Private New Capital Expenditure, Australia, Actual and Expected Expenditure to June 1991, September Quarter 1990 Survey, Preliminary (5625.0; \$3.50)
Retail Trade, Australia, September 1990 Supplement (8501.0; free)
- 27** Export Price Index, Australia, September 1990 (6405.0; \$5.00)
Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, October 1990, Preliminary (9301.0; \$4.00)
- 28** Balance of Payments, Australia, September Quarter 1990 (5302.0; \$16.50)
Foreign Investment, Australia, September Quarter 1990, Preliminary (5307.0; \$6.50)
Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, September 1990 (6407.0; \$9.00)
Production Statistics, Australia, October 1990, Preliminary (8301.0; \$5.00)
Building Approvals, Australia, October 1990 (8731.0; \$8.50)
- 29** Australian National Accounts: National Income and Expenditure, September Quarter 1990 (5206.0; \$16.50)
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia, September 1990 (6412.0; \$6.00)
- 30** Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, September 1990 (6408.0; \$3.75)
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia, September 1990 (6411.0; \$8.50)

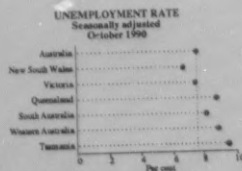
December

- 4** Balance of Payments, Australia, October 1990 (5301.0; \$12.00)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to

20 November 1990



Statistics Weekly
22 November 1990

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (March qtr 90)*	10.1	-13.5	5.6	17.7	-5.3	-35.2	n.a.	n.a.	-2.4
Retail turnover (September 90) (trend estimate)	6.5	-0.1	4.4	5.7	3.8	8.0	n.a.	10.4	4.5
New motor vehicle registrations (September 90)†	1.6	-25.6	16.5	-0.5	-8.1	14.1	-5.5	-33.7	-6.3
Number of dwelling unit approvals (September 90)	-15.7	-28.8	-10.9	0.3	-20.1	-7.0	63.5	-32.4	-16.5
Value of total building work done (June qtr 90)	2.0	-5.4	-26.3	4.0	-15.9	-15.5	-6.0	-7.7	-7.3
Employed persons (October 90)*	0.3	-0.2	2.0	2.0	0.7	0.3	-0.3	3.3	0.7
Capital city consumer price index (Sept. qtr 90)	5.8	6.4	5.3	6.3	7.0	5.5	6.0	6.2	6.0
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (August 90)	4.9	7.1	9.0	7.0	7.6	9.1	7.0	6.4	6.5
Population (March 90)	0.8	1.3	2.8	1.0	2.6	1.0	-0.1	2.0	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc (March qtr 90)	3.7	1.1	3.8	6.9	-1.3	2.3	-1.2	-7.0	2.6

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

The latest ...

8

Key national indicators – consolidated to 20 November 1990

		Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National production						
Gross domestic product — current prices	\$m	June qtr 90	91,183	93,879	0.4	5.6
— 1984-85 prices			62,511	64,562	-0.9	1.0
Industrial activity						
New capital expenditure — current prices (f)	\$m	June qtr 90	7,379	7,037	-3.3	-8.8
— 1984-85 prices (f)			5,599	5,333	-2.4	-12.1
Expected new capital expenditure (f)	"	Six months to Dec. 90	14,807	n.a.	n.a.	-1.6
Retail turnover — current prices (f)	"	September 90	6,792	7,185	0.1	4.4
— 1984-85 prices (f)	"	June qtr 90	14,300	14,796	-0.3	1.4
New motor vehicle registrations	no.	September 90	50,018	50,872	8.6	-6.3
Dwelling unit approvals		September 90	10,354	10,527	-3.7	-15.6
Value of all building approvals	\$m	September 90	1,822	1,951	6.0	-18.4
Value of total building work done — current prices	"	June qtr 90	7,064	7,077	-6.9	-7.5
— 1984-85 prices	"		4,484	4,493	-7.6	-12.8
Manufacturers' sales	"	June qtr 90	35,329	35,201	-3.0	2.3
Expected manufacturers' sales	"	Six months to Dec. 90	75,399	n.a.	n.a.	4.6
Labour						
Employed persons (e)	'000	October 90	7,870.5	7,868.6	-0.1	0.7
Unemployment rate † (e)	%	"	7.2	7.6	0.2	1.7
Participation rate † (e)	"	"	63.6	63.9	0.0	0.5
Job vacancies	'000	August 90	48.1	49.6	-1.3	-25.3
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"	1.2	1.3	-6.5	-17.6
Prices, profits and wages						
Consumer price index 1980-81 = 100.0		Sept. qtr 90	208.9	n.a.	0.7	6.0
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries 1984-85 = 100.0		August 90	122.4	n.a.	5.2	2.7
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry 1988-89 = 100.0	\$m	August 90	109.6	n.a.	0.9	5.0
Company profits before income tax		June qtr 90	3,356	3,634	-10.9	-25.3
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$	August 90	541.70	n.a.	1.4	6.5
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)	% per annum	September 90	13.55	n.a.	-0.20	-4.8
90-day bank bills †			13.65	n.a.	0.15	0.0
10-year Treasury bonds †						
Balance of payments	\$m	September 90	3,879	4,043	-1.5	-0.2
Exports of merchandise	"	"	3,809	4,067	2.6	10.9
Imports of merchandise	"	"	70	-24	66.2	95.3
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	-336	-295	39.0	66.4
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	-1,512	-1,549	2.0	23.8
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	n.a.	104.9	1.7	-4.3
Terms of trade (d)	1984-85 = 100.0	June qtr 90				
Foreign investment	\$m	30 June 90	122,770	n.a.	-2.0	11.7
Net foreign debt	"	"	160,315	n.a.	1.3	10.4
Net foreign liabilities	"	"				
Exchange rates (monthly average)	per \$A	September 90	0.8249	n.a.	2.0	6.8
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	"	61.6	n.a.	0.3	1.7
Other indicators	million '000	Mar. 90	17.0	n.a.	0.4	1.5
Population (resident at end of qtr)	"	June 90	157	201	5.6	11.0
Overseas visitors	"	"				

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports. (e) Later figures released Wednesday, 21 November 1990. (f) Later figures released Thursday, 22 November 1990.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available. Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 6). Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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